

Message Text

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S/S - WHLUERS

OASD/ISA/PPANDNSA:COLMAHLBERG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMSIXFLT PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: NATO EXERCISE QTE LOCKED GATE UNQTE

REFS: USNATO 552; LISBON 626

FOR NATO: DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 4.

1. WE BELIEVE THAT IN ABSENCE OF SIGNS GOP IS DEVELOPING COLD FEET OVER QTE LOCKED GATE UNQTE, EXERCISE (INCLUDING PORT VISITS AND SHORE LEAVES) SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED. SO FAR, PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO DEFUSE SITUATION AND TO CORRECT PUBLICLY ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING EXERCISE CREATED BY MEDIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SACLANT HDQRS. MESSAGE TO SACLANT REP EUROPE 011517Z FEB., WHICH WAS TO BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF SYG LUNS AND CHAIRMAN MC, HAS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL EXERCISE AND PORT CALL SCENARIO, NOTING INTER ALIA THAT ACTUAL SHORE LIBERTY BETWEEN FEB 8-12 WILL BE GRANTED ONLY AS AUTHORIZED BY THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. WE ASSUME THAT LUNS IS AWARE FROM MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT NO RPT NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN TO CURTAIL EXERCISE AND PORT VISIT SCENARIO.

2. AT THE FEBRUARY 4 PERMREPS DISCUSSION YOU SHOULD DRAW UPON FOREGOING TO INFORM ALLIES OF OUR VIEWS. ALSO YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT LUNS STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH

PORUGUESE DELEGATION AND NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON THESE MATTERS.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT NATO SPOKESMAN BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY, IF ASKED, THAT ALLIES HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED LOCKED GATE EXERCISE. HE COULD RECONFIRM THE UTILITY OF THE EXERCISE FOR ALLIANCE DEFENSE AND SAY THAT THE EXERCISE WOULD CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. SPOKESMAN SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT COMMENT ON PORT VISIT AND SHORE LEAVE PLANS, SINCE THAT IS A NATIONAL NOT ALLIANCE MATTER.

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BUT HE MIGHT ADD, ON BACKGROUND, ALSO IF ASKED, THAT ALLIES ARE AWARE OF PORT VISIT AND SHORE LEAVE PLANS AND SEE NO REASON TO RECOMMEND CANCELLATION TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. WE PLAN TO PURSUE SIMILAR LINE ON IF-ASKED BASIS IF ISSUE ARISES HERE, NOTING ALSO THAT PLANNING WAS INITIATED FOR THE EXERCISE OVER A YEAR AGO.

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